

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 035318
ORIGIN IO-14

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IO/UNP:JLORENZ
IO/UNA:JTEFFT
NEA:JMONTVILLE
L/UNA:SBOND

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TO USMISSION GENEVA
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035318

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PORG, UNHRC, IN, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: INDIAN OFFER OF
RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FOR "EXPERT" CANDIDATES IN SUBCOMMISSION
ELECTION

REF: A) NEW DELHI 1874, B) GENEVA 1835

1. INDIAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ASHOK B. GOKHALE
CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELMAN (IO) ON
FEBRUARY 8, INTER ALIA, TO REITERATE THE INDIAN OFFER OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 035318

RECIPROCAL SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. AND INDIAN "EXPERT"
CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE UN SUBCOMMISSION ON THE
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.
GOKHALE LEFT A BIOGRAPHIC DATA SHEET ON THE INDIAN
CANDIDATE, DR. L. M. SINGHVI, WHICH WE ARE POUCHING TO
ADDRESSEES.

2. GOKHALE SAID THAT INDIA'S PERMREP TO THE UN, AMBASSADOR JAIPAL, HAD RAISED THE SINGHVI CANDIDACY WITH AMBASSADOR LEONARD IN NEW YORK AND HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE U.S.' TRADITIONAL POLICY OF SUPPORTING CANDIDATES SELECTED BY THEIR OWN REGIONAL GROUPS. HE UNDERSTOOD FROM JAIPAL, HOWEVER, THAT THE AFRO-ASIAN GROUP MAY NOT COME FORWARD WITH AN OFFICIAL

LIST OF CANDIDATES BEFORE THE ELECTION TOOK PLACE AT THE END OF THE CURRENT HRC SESSION. IF THAT PROVED TO BE THE CASE, GOKHALE SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HOPED THAT INDIA AND THE U.S. COULD SUPPORT EACH OTHER'S CANDIDATES.

3. HELMAN REPLIED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL LIST OF REGIONAL CANDIDATES, THE U.S. WOULD EXAMINE EACH CANDIDATE ON THE BASIS OF MERIT. SINGHVI WAS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO US AND APPEARED TO BE EMINENTLY QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB. WE WOULD CERTAINLY EXAMINE HIS CANDIDACY WITH THE GREATEST SYMPATHY. HOWEVER, NO COMMITMENTS WERE POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: IN DUE COURSE, A MISSION REPORT ON THE STATUS OF AFRO-ASIAN CANDIDACIES WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VANCE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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